IN CYCLEDOM.

NOVEL SHOWER BATH.

A Device Combining Exercise and the Morning Ablutions.

At the recent cycle show in Paris, a prominent English bicycle manufacturer presented a novelty called a "Velo-Douche," which is an eminently practical device for combining exercise and the morning ablutions. Many wheelmen have doubtless often desired to obtain a shower bath after violent exercising on the wheel, so as to obtain the sedative effect of the brisk reaction.

Many bicycle and athletic clubs are provided with every facility for obtaining this end, but such means are not always at the disposal of the rider, especially in the country.

The device which we illustrate is really a combination of the home exerciser and shower bath, and it enables the rider to obtain any amount of exercise desired with or without the bath. The machine consists of a shallow tub to which is secured a framework car-

VELOCIPEDE SHOWER BATH.

rying a bicycle saddle, a handle bar, pedals, sprocket wheels and chain. The resemblance to the bicycle goes no further. The small sprocket wheel which is driven from the large sprocket on the main shaft by the medium of a chain is secured to a small rotary pump which is fastened at the rear of the frame. The suction pipe of the pump ends near the bottom of the tub and the discharge pipe is curved as shown in the engraving and ends in the sprinkler arrangement common to all shower baths. A cock half-way up the discharge pipe permits of the water being turned on to the sprinkler or through the hose and nozzle, depending on whether a bath is desired or not.

It is, of course, perfectly possible to obtain the exercise without getting wet, the pump furnishing the resistance necessary for the exercise and the water which is pumped being discharged by means of the rubber tube and nozzle. When the rider has exercised sufficiently, he can reach backward and turn the cock so as to let the water pass upward and out of the sprinkler. The harder he pedals, the larger the stream.

It is possible to direct a stream of water on any part of the body by means of the nozzle connected with the rubber tube. The tub can be divided into two compartments, one containing hot water and the other cold water, and the cold and hot douche may then be used at will. The device could be made to set in any ordinary bathtub. It would seem that the "Velo-Douche" has a future for use in the cycle clubs, riding academies, sanitariums and in the army.—Scientific American.

USE OF TOE CLIPS.

They Are of Real Value in Spite of Old Traditions.

Many cyclists scorn the use of toe clips as the fad of the scorcher. That is where they err. A sense of security is invaluable to the cyclist. If he is well seated and feels certain of a firm hold upon grips and pedals, the difficulties and annoyances of rough riding are greatly lessened. The toe clip, as applied to the old-time wheel, was a most dangerous thing for road use, and affected only by daring riders who fancied imitation of the racing man the chief end of cycling existence. But the invention of the "safety" and consequent passing of the "header" advanced the clip to a leading place among accessories and gave it new importance. The common assertion that the toe clip is dangerous may be regarded as wholly due to lingering memories of bruised heads and bloody noses, primarily caused by misplaced confidence in the appurtenances in the days of its use on the high bicycle. The only fall a sane rider can get from a safety is a side fall, the bad results of which cannot be much increased through a use of toe clips.

Connecticut's New Law.

A bill concerning the use of bicycles was passed recently by the Connecticut legislature. It provides that a bicycle rider shall not ride at a rate of speed exceeding ten miles an hour in any street, highway or park; that he must have a bell attached to his bicycle; mayors of cities, selectmen of towns or wardens of boroughs may give permission on special occasion for the riding of bicycles at a higher rate of speed than ten miles an hour. No city, town or borough shall have power to make any ordinance contrary to this law.

What a Collision Means.

A man of 150 pounds weight, and moving at the rate of ten feet per second (about seven miles an hour), has a momentum of 1,500 pounds, without counting the weight of his wheel. This is sufficient to have a surprising effect on the ordinary pedestrian. A collision between two 150-pound riders wheeling at the moderate rate of seven miles an hour would result in a smash-up with a force of 3,000 pounds. No wonder bicycle accidents are often serious!

DANGEROUS PRACTICE.

Riding Hands Off the Handle Bars Should Be Discouraged.

There are various reasons why the reprehensible practice of riding with hands off the handle bars should be generally abandoned. Chief among these reasons, perhaps, is the fact that it is dangerous not only to the rider himself, but to others. To do the trick successfully it is necessary to travel at a speed which is not safe, at least on a street which is liable to be crossed anywhere by pedestrians or other riders, and it is just such thoroughfares that the senseless hands-off rider selects to show himself off. With the hands off the bars the rider has no control of the wheel, and, particularly at crossings, there is no telling at what instant it is necessary to make a detour or slacken speed. Just the fraction of time necessary to regain control of the wheel often is enough to cause an accident. With no guiding power there is no telling what the front wheel is going to do. A small obstacle in the street which would ordinarily be passed over without notice is enough to deflect the front wheel and, if there are any riders close, send it crashing into their bicycles.

An old rider said: "Handle bars are made to hold on to, and whenever I see some crank—I call him by no other name—come sailing along trying to show off I feel like taking a thump into him. He is liable to cause all sorts of damage, and a dose of the same sort of medicine which he so often inflicts on others will many times do him a world of good."—Chicago Chronicle.

HOW WOMEN MOUNT.

They Have Quite as Many Varieties of Style as the Men.

In the variety of styles of mounting the bicycle the girls are fast equaling the men. There was a time when only one style of mounting was in general use. But as the riders become more expert and gain more confidence they are branching out in this particular.

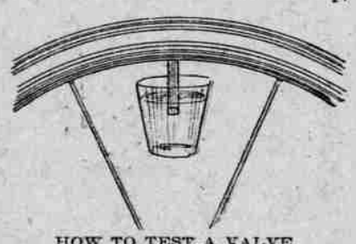
The old style of mounting for women by standing out in the street with the pedal raised is not so easy in going up a hill. As a consequence, the curbstone mount became popular. This is an easy way of mounting the wheel, and can be learned by anyone. It saves the strain to a large extent on the frame of the wheel. A drop-frame wheel, by the way, is not as rigid as the diamond frame of a man's bicycle.

Perhaps the most graceful mount of any, and likewise the most difficult, is the female pedal mount. The right foot is placed on the right pedal, which is raised to nearly its highest point. A slight shove is given the wheel, and before the right pedal reaches its lowest point in its revolution the left foot catches the left pedal just as it is coming up. It's pretty, but difficult.

TESTING THE VALVE.

It Should Be Done Before Laying Blame on the Tire.

Many "defective tires" are only considered so because the valve leaks and the rider doesn't know it. Be sure the valve is all right before you blame the tire. It isn't necessary that the valve proper should be perfectly air tight—most of them are not—but the "cap,"



HOW TO TEST A VALVE.

when screwed on tight, should seal it perfectly. To tell for certain whether it does or not, try it with a glass of water, as shown above. Be sure there is enough water in the glass to come well up on to the valve stem.—L. A. W. Bulletin.

Bicycles in Australia.

American bicycles are the favorites in Australia, according to the report of Mr. Maratta, United States consul-general at Melbourne. Last year Victoria imported $1,478,715 worth of bicycles, which sold there at prices ranging from $55 to $145 each. The American wheels secured the highest price, and are best liked. It is the practice of some dealers to sell wheels on time payment for the exact amount of the monthly suburban railway tickets, so that at the end of a certain time the buyer seems to obtain his bicycle free of cost. All the leading American wheels are represented by agencies in Australia, and there is complaint that the trade is overdone, receiving 35 per cent. more bicycles in proportion to population than any other country.

How to Polish Your Lamp.

"Do you want to know how to polish the lens of your lamp?" asked the repair man. "If you do, here you are: First clean the surface with a pad of cotton waste and then cover the pad with cotton velvet charged with fine rouge. This will not only remove the scratches, but will impart brilliancy to the glass. Lenses in lanterns should not only be clean and clear, but should be brilliant as well, and brilliancy comes partly from polishing."

Plants Used in Commerce.

In Europe at the present day about 4,000 plants are collected for commercial purposes, 420 of them being sought for their perfume. There are gathered 1,124 species of white flowers, 951 of yellow, 823 of red, 594 of blue and 308 of violet, and 187 of the white flowers have pleasing odors, 77 of the yellow, 84 of the red, 34 of the blue and 13 of the violet.

For Her Dear Sake.

Cora—I hate to mention it, love, but really you don't seem to dress as well as you did when we were first engaged.

Merritt—That's because I wish you to get accustomed to the way I'll look after we're married.—N. Y. Journal.

WOMAN AND HOME.

PRETTY VEIL CASE.

A Present Which Is Not Only Attractive, But Useful Also.

Many women find an added charm in a gift that has been the personal handiwork of a friend. The article seems to acquire a sentimental value far beyond its actual monetary one in such a case. Yet, with plenty of spare time on their hands, and all the necessary executive ability, many givers of presents are obliged to content themselves with the purchase of their gifts ready-made because they cannot plan out anything that shall be at once useful and ornamental, and so able to justify its amateur construction. To such a puzzled devotee of the work table, the veil case, shown in the accompanying sketch, is offered for consideration. There can be no question about its pretty appearance, and any woman who has had her good veilings spoiled with knocking about in her drawers, to catch inevitably upon every glove, button or hook, will decide that such a separate receptacle for them would be of the utmost service.

For a present that is to be as handsome as possible, the veil case should be developed in white satin, with powderings of blue forget-me-nots, a lining of pale blue silk, and a cord and ribbons in a similar shade. To make the shape, the ubiquitous mill-board must be again called into requisition, and two palette shapes cut from it; the size may be decided at the worker's pleasure, but generally useful measurements would be from 7½ to 8 inches in length, and about six inches across. This gives the veil comfortable space, if it is folded carefully.

Cut two pieces of the white satin, and two of the blue silk, the same shape as the palette, only rather larger, to allow for turnings. Then proceed to stretch a piece of satin and a piece of silk on either side of a cardboard portion, taking care that there are no wrinkles; turn the edges of the materials inward, and stitch firmly together round the edge of the palette. The remaining piece of satin must be daintily embroidered with single flowers and the word "Veils" in forget-

JUST THE THING TO KEEP VEILS IN.

me-nots or other flowers, before it is also stretched upon the remaining shape.

Little now remains to be done save to neatly sew round the blue-silk cord, which will conceal the stitches, to make two holes for the connecting ribbon bows, and buttonhole them nicely; while the single large bow which ties the case when in use, must have been sewn in under the cord. Countless pretty developments of this case suggest themselves, besides the one mentioned; for instance, pale green satin with pink May blossoms; pure white satin, with silver cord and embroidery of silver myrtle flowers, for a wedding gift; or, for personal use, with a trifling expense, cream linen worked in flourishing thread, and lined with blue satin.—N. Y. Journal.

SIMPLY DELICIOUS.

How Expert Pastry Cooks Make a Fresh Strawberry Pie.

One of the most delicious of all pastry is a pie of fresh strawberries. Line a deep tin pieplate with the nicest pastry you can prepare. Fill the pastry with uncooked rice and bake it in the oven. When the paste is done remove the rice; it can be soaked and used for boiling, or it may be kept on hand to bake in pastry. It simply serves to prevent the form of pastry from rising and getting out of shape as it would if it were not filled. Apple jelly is sometimes used to fill the pie, and when the crust is baked its contents are scraped out, leaving perhaps a quarter of an inch of jelly in the bottom. The apple jelly is sometimes given the exact flavor of strawberries by mixing strawberry juice in equal proportions with apple juice when the jelly is made. When the crust is filled with jelly it makes a rather more elaborate pie, but takes more time.

In either case, as soon as the crust is baked dredge a little sugar over it and fill it with perfectly ripe, luscious strawberries well sweetened. Heap sweetened and whipped cream thickly over it. It may also be covered with a meringue made of the whites of three eggs beaten to a stiff froth, four tablespoonfuls of sugar and the juice of half a small lemon. Cover the berries carefully with the meringue, which is a nonconductor of heat, and isolate the pieplate holding the pie from the oven bottom by setting it on a thick pine board, and bake the meringue in this way in a moderately hot oven for 20 minutes. If the work of isolation has been properly done the berries will not be heated, but the meringue will have risen and will be well done and only a delicate brown. Remove the pie to a cold plate and let it become ice cold before serving it.—N. Y. Tribune.

A Master of Romance.

"Bosworth would have made a fortune as a novelist."

"What makes you think so?"

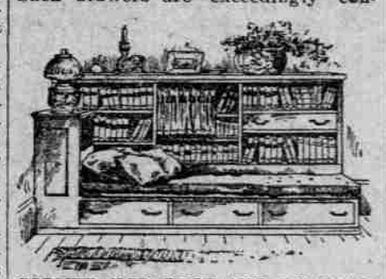
"I was with him the other evening when he was telling his wife why he happened to be so late in getting home."—Cleveland Leader.

A DELIGHTFUL CORNER.

Convenient Book Case Combined with a Comfortable Couch.

A couch is an indispensable article in a room that is frequented as the "living-room" of the family. In cultivated homes this room is apt to be the library. Here modern taste calls for low book cases, with broad top for the accommodation of clock lamps, jardinieres and bric-a-brac. A corner case of this sort can very easily be combined with a couch after the manner suggested in the accompanying illustration. Here one may take his ease, with all his favorite volumes convenient to his hand, while at night the lamp above his head will make reading and resting especially delightful.

The bookcase proper is broken up by drawers and curtained spaces, to take away the "set" look that long rows of book shelves can hardly help having. Beneath the couch are three capacious drawers for the convenient holding of old magazines, pamphlets or files of periodicals one may wish to preserve. Such drawers are exceedingly con-



CORNER FOR REST AND READING.

venient in a library, and could hardly be had without some combination of this sort. The top of the bookcase should be 12 inches wide. This gives plenty of top space, and also a chance to have drawers that are quite commodious. The wood used for this combination should be of quartered oak for top drawer fronts and end panels—no wood is richer—while for the rest of the work unquartered oak can be used, though of course the furnishing of the room, if already furnished, may require another kind of wood. Oak, however, appears particularly well adapted for library use.—Country Gentleman.

APPRECIATES HIS WIFE.

Why a Kentucky Editor Calls Her His "Better Seven-Eighths."

Many of my friends have asked me, and a few strangers had the curiosity to write and inquire: "Why is it that you always speak of your wife as your better seven-eighths?" In this brief article I will endeavor to explain, and I use the personal pronoun, that the readers will the better understand me. In Christian fortitude she is as a fortress capable of withstanding any fusillade; I put a rifle pit with many unguarded gaps in comparison. Her faith is that of a healthy tree in full foliage and fruit; mine like a tree blasted, with an occasional sprout that lends hope of fruition, but so frail that the first cold wave of despondency deadens and withers it. As a neighbor she embodies those qualities expressed in the words of the Master: "Do unto others as you would that they should do to you;" I am content to do by him as well as he had done by me, and too frequently fall short of that standard. As nurse she is a sister of charity reared in the Garden of Gethsemane or in a nunnery of Nazareth, shedding sweet sunshine through the sickroom; I both impatient and irascible. Endowed with almost superhuman energy, she is a living type of the busy bee; I, not so enriched, am too frequently a drone of disappointment. The day is never so dark but the bright light beyond beckons her on as a beacon of hope; despondency darkens my vision and obscures from view anything favorable the future might show. Thus in al the nobler attributes of life she towers above me as the forest pine about the stunted fig bush. During a continuous companionship of over 22 years I have been sensible to these superior qualities, and I have been always honest enough to say so. She combines characteristics quintuple in quality, and in her affections assumes the place of mother, wife, sister, friend. Al in all, she is the apple of my eye, my best beloved, in whom I am well pleased. Such is my wife as I see her, and have known her in all these years. She condones my faults, finds excuses for my errors, sympathizes with me in sorrow, and strengthens me in adversity. Hence, I say, "our better seven-eighths;" such she will ever be to me!—Hazel Green (Ky.) Herald.

New Shades in Stationery.

A leading stationer shows a window full of opalescent shades in new stationery, some of which have peculiarly paradoxical names. They are all a Grecian bond paper. One, a darker blue than the others, is called Turkish blue, and a certain pretty sized is called the Victor. They are all absolutely new, and pretty indeed. The new salmon pink, called crevette, a sort of pink cream, is one of the prettiest, while the colonial buff for colonial dames is also very dainty. The violet shades are as popular as the violets themselves.

Hot Milk as Nutriment.

If anyone doubts the nourishing properties of milk, let a test be made of the following preparation of it: When very weary or weak from exhaustion, heat some milk to the scalding point, until a thin skin begins to wrinkle upon the surface, and then drink it as hot as possible. It refreshes almost instantly and restores the exhausted vitality to a surprising extent as soon as it is taken. It is more nutritious than any of the beef teas made from meat extracts, or that made from fresh beef.

That Terrible Child.

Mrs. Best Friend—What do you think, Clara, that horrid Miss Backbite said that she didn't believe you wore your own hair.

Bobby—Yes, but my mamma said she knew it was yours 'cause she saw you pay for it.—N. Y. Times.

THE FARMING WORLD.

COLTS ON THE FARM.

How to Make Them Profitable in More Ways Than One.

So long as teams are necessary on the farm to do the work, with proper management the raising of good colts can be made to some extent at least profitable. A good team or teams of brood mares can do nearly or quite as much work as horses, says a writer in Nebraska Farmer, and if kept in a good condition and properly bred to a good sire will bring a good colt. Outside of the cost of service it will cost practically nothing to raise until it is ready to wean. Then after it is 2½ years old, if proper care has been taken in training, it will be able to do sufficient work to pay for keep until matured. So that under average conditions the cost of service and of feeding for two years will make the cost of the colt. We are driving a team of good young horses, one three and the other four years old, that were raised in this way, and they are able to do a very large amount of work. And anything like a fair colt will sell for double the cost of the feed for two years. By the time one team of colts has matured sufficiently to be ready to sell another younger team can be ready to do the work. Of course good mares should be kept, and they should be bred to a good horse. It is hardly advisable to keep and breed a plug mare, and especially if she is bred to a scrub horse. A colt from a mating of this kind would hardly sell at a profitable price, and there is no good reason for raising a colt of this sort. Average good mares can be secured so cheaply that it is economy to have good mares and breed to good sires, using all reasonable care to raise good colts, and if there is anywhere that they can be raised profitably it is on the farm where the mares can be used to an advantage in doing the work and the colts may be used sufficiently to pay for their keep as soon as they are old enough.

FARROWING PENS.

This Kind May Be Readily Moved from Place to Place.

The simplest is the best. This engraving represents a portable or moving pig shed for two sows. It is eight feet wide from A to D; fourteen feet long from A to B; four feet high on back (D E), and six feet high in front (B C). The two farrowing pens are cut off, one on each end, by

SIMPLE FARROWING PEN.

a three-foot space in middle for stove and for herdsmen. The front roof (C F) is of sash, two feet wide and the length of the building. This affords abundant sunlight. In summer the sash should be covered for protection and to prevent superheating of pens. This style of pen, if well framed and strongly built, may be readily moved from place to place, and is about the simplest and best pig shed that can be made.—Journal of Agriculture.

HINTS FOR STOCKMEN.

In breeding defects tend strongly to become hereditary.

Dry sawdust makes a good material for bedding in the stables in summer.

Plenty of warm skim-milk will make a calf grow and cold skim-milk will kill it.

In order to perform hard labor the work horse must have plenty of nutritious food.

Every animal has just so much growth in them and no more. Remember this in feeding, especially for market.

It will help to keep the horses with a good appetite if the boxes and mangers are cleaned out before fresh food is put in them.

The growing pig should never be allowed to fall off in condition sufficient to retard its growth, but should be kept growing steadily until maturity.

While, with the majority of farmers, pasturing can be depended upon very largely during the summer, yet when it is an item to keep as much stock as the pastures will carry, it will be found good economy to grow some soiling crops.—Farmers' Union.

The Sheep Bot Fly.

A trickling of blood from the nose indicates the presence of the grubs of the sheep bot-fly in the nasal-sinuses. These grubs have now found their way to these places where they take up their quarters until next spring or summer, when they escape, and fall to the ground where they take on their final form as a fly, and immediately lay their eggs on the sheep's nose, and so the new round begins. It is possible to eject these grubs at their present stage by blowing tobacco smoke into the nostrils of the sheep, and immediately afterwards to blow up a pinch of fine snuff, the sneezing then ejecting the grubs. This remedy is that used by the Scotch shepherds.

Extent of Tobacco Farming.

In Connecticut there is hardly a farmer who does not raise tobacco. The Connecticut leaf is particularly valuable for wrapping purposes, and also excels in flavor. In Ohio the growers say that the total expenses of their crops average $85 per acre, but they find tobacco growing profitable even at those figures. There is said to be a growing belief among American tobacco consumers that home-grown tobacco equals the imported article. Tobacco is grown in at least a dozen states, Pennsylvania leading in the amount of production, while Ohio has 50,000 acres given up to the culture, and an average crop of 30,000,000 pounds.

WONDERFUL INDEED.

The Queen Bee Is the Most Marvelous of All Insects.

The study of bee life is always an interesting matter to the beginner and of all bees the queen is the most wonderful product in insect life. In the first place she is the product of the bees themselves. A common worker egg is taken and fed a certain kind of food and a fully developed female is produced from an egg that in the natural course would have been imperfect.

As soon as she has become fully grown the queen bee sets out to find a mate, and after her return from this wedding trip never leaves her home again unless it is to seek another and more commodious one, for it is always the old queen that leaves with the swarm instead of a younger one.

The queen bee lives four or five years and is capable of laying from 2,000 to 3,000 eggs a day during all this time. As the ordinary worker lives less than six weeks in the working season and only six or seven months under the most favorable circumstances, the queen sees many generations of her children come and go. No queen ever had more loyal subjects than those of the queen bee, and they will die in defense of her and their home at any time. If a strange queen is introduced into a colony, the members of it pounce upon her at once unless their old queen is removed, in which case the stranger is usually given a warm welcome.

If a surplus of queens is hatched in a hive, the extra ones are killed at once, and after the old queen becomes useless for the purpose of laying more eggs to keep up the strength of a colony, her children kill her and cast her out and raise up a new one to succeed her.—Farmers' Voice.

THE FLAVOR OF EGGS.

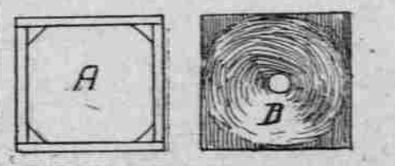
Green Bone Is the Cheapest Hen Food on the Market.

Good feeders have long known that certain kinds of food would greatly improve the flesh of animals for human consumption. The feeding of roots improves the quality of mutton; artichokes improve the quality of pork. Enterprising duck farmers have found that the feeding of celery improves the flavor of their birds, and chestnuts are fed to fattening turkeys to produce a game flavor. Green cut bone is fed to chickens for the same reason and to increase the size of the fowls and to increase and improve the flavor of their eggs. Careful experiment and practical experience have proven beyond any question of doubt that the liberal feeding of green cut bone will double the egg yield from a given number of hens. Green bone is the cheapest egg food on the market to-day, and in many places can be had for the mere asking. In those places where it has acquired a commercial value it can be bought for 25 to 30 cents per 100 pounds. This is much cheaper than wheat, which is the best of the cereal egg-producing foods. Green cut bone has such a potent force in increasing egg production that it will be found especially helpful in winter, producing large quantities of eggs when they are of greatest value.—Journal of Agriculture.

EGG-EATING HENS.

How to Remove Temptation Out of Their Wicked Way.

The plan portrayed below can be made by anyone handy with tools, and the cost will be but little. After making the frame as shown at a, take a strong, close piece of burlap, cut somewhat larger than the frame, and set a ring in the center of the piece large enough for an egg to pass through eas-



THE EGG-EATING HEN FOILED.

ily. Tack this on the upper edge of the frame a, allowing it to sag five or six inches in the center, as at b. To complete the nest and make it more attractive and natural for the hens, wisps of hay may be twisted and sewed on the inside. The frame should be made to fit tightly in the nest heretofore used, so that it will not have to be fastened. The egg will drop through the hole and roll to one side of the nest below. The eggs may be gathered by simply lifting up the front side of the frame.—Curtis J. Irwin, in Farm and Home.

For Flies on Cattle.

Take coal tar two parts and coal oil and grease one part of each and mix with a small amount of carbolic acid. Apply with a cloth by moistening the hair and horns of the animal with the liquid. In the applications include feet and legs, and it will drive every fly away, and one application will last ten days or more in dry weather. Apply as often as necessary, and your cows will be entirely secure from flies of all kinds. Any kind of old lard or grease can be used. Coal tar is the base of this remedy, and when too thick to spread well, use more coal oil; when too thin to adhere well use more coal tar. Carbolic acid will cost about 50 or 60 cents in crystals by the pound, and every farmer should always keep it on hand, as in its many uses it is indispensable.—Live Stock Record.

To Be Used with Care.

Unground cotton seed is a good food, but should be used with some care. It is rarely safe to feed it to hogs, especially to pigs; it often causes trouble when fed to calves or other young stock. The seed has a large percentage of oil, and also of nitrogenous or flesh forming matter. Generally it will be found advisable to mix the seed with grain or other food rather than to feed it alone, although this is often done. The lint left on the seed may be considered objectionable, but it very rarely causes trouble except with hogs. Certainly the seed should not be allowed to go to waste.—Rural World.